

THE COVID-19 VACCINE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Our top priority is to save lives. All South Carolinians 12+* are eligible to get the vaccine.

If you are **fully vaccinated**, you can resume activities that you did prior to the pandemic.

Fully vaccinated people can resume activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance.

Below are answers to commonly asked questions about COVID-19 vaccination. You can call 1-866-365-8110 or visit scdhec.gov/vaxfacts if you have more questions.

Who can get the vaccine?

All South Carolinians 12+* are now eligible for COVID-19 vaccines.

**The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is approved for 12 and older. Moderna and Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccines are approved for 18 and older.*

Why do I need the COVID-19 vaccine?

Based on what we know about vaccines for other diseases and early data from COVID-19 vaccine clinical trials, experts believe that getting a COVID-19 vaccine helps to keep you from getting seriously ill even if you do get COVID-19 after being vaccinated. Getting vaccinated also protects people around you, particularly people at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

Can I get the COVID-19 vaccine if I have recently had COVID?

Yes, you may get the COVID-19 vaccine when you have completed your isolation period. You do not need to wait 90 days. You should be vaccinated regardless of whether you've already had COVID-19. Even after you have recovered from COVID-19, it is possible that you could be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 again.

How can I get a vaccine?

Vaccines are given by appointment. Anyone eligible to be vaccinated should make an appointment at a location currently offering appointments.

You can use our vax locator map at scdhec.gov/vaxlocator to find the contact location for a facility near you or call 1-866-365-8110 between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. seven days a week.

Are COVID-19 vaccines safe?

Yes. COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective. No vaccine will be released until it has passed the same tough scientific and clinical testing that all vaccines in development are held to.

How can a safe vaccine be made so quickly?

Making a vaccine usually takes years. However, scientists had a head start on these vaccines. They had started work on coronavirus vaccines during past outbreaks. That earlier work helped scientists quickly make vaccines to protect against the virus that causes COVID-19.

Is the COVID-19 vaccine a live vaccine?

No. The vaccine doesn't contain live or a weakened virus in it. The vaccines contain the gene for a virus protein only. This means you can't get COVID-19 from the vaccine.

What are the side effects of the vaccine?

Any vaccine or medication can cause side effects. These are typically minor, such as a sore arm or low-grade fever, and go away within a few days. Like all vaccines, COVID-19 vaccines are not approved until clinical trials show they are safe and effective. Safety is the top priority. Results from the first COVID-19 vaccines show no serious side effects.

How much will it cost me to get a vaccine?

The federal government is providing the vaccine free of charge to all people living in the United States. Vaccination providers can be reimbursed for vaccine administration fees by the patient's public or private insurance company or, for uninsured patients, by the Health Resources and Services Administration's Provider Relief Fund. No one can be denied a vaccine if they are unable to pay a vaccine administration fee, and no one should receive a bill for receiving the vaccine.

Anyone who has received their vaccine and has a question about any charges, fees or associated costs should contact their vaccine provider.

Will more than one dose of COVID-19 vaccine be required?

The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine requires two shots 21 days apart. The Moderna vaccine requires two shots 28 days apart. You must receive both shots of the same type of vaccine: either two shots of Pfizer or two shots of Moderna.

The Janssen vaccine only requires one shot.

How will I know when to get my second dose?

After receiving your first shot, you will receive a paper immunization record that will be completed at the time of vaccination. It will include the vaccine you received, date and location, and date when your next shot is needed. Make your second appointment while you're at your first appointment, no later. Don't leave your first appointment without knowing how and when you'll get your second shot.

Do I need to wear a mask and physically distance from others after being vaccinated?

If you are fully vaccinated, you can resume activities that you did prior to the pandemic.

Fully vaccinated people can resume activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance.